

General Assembly of the United Nations

Committee Description



READ TO DISCOVER:

- What are the responsibilities of the General Assembly of the United Nations?
- Who is included in the General Assembly of the United Nations?

Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. The Great Assembly plays the role of the UN decision-maker. The General Assembly discusses issues on peace, security, admission of new members and budget.¹ Their meetings are a unique forum for multilateral discussion. The General Assembly can legislate international law. The Assembly has intensive meetings regularly, held from September to December each year and thereafter as required. The 65th Session of the UN General Assembly opened on September 14, 2010.

The General Assembly has six main committees: 1) Disarmament and International Security Committee; 2) Economic and Financial Committee; 3) Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee; 4) Special Political and Decolonization Committee; 5) Administrative and Budgetary Committee; and 6) Legal Committee.

The General Assembly is made up of 192 members.² Each country has one vote no matter how rich or poor, large or small the nation is. Decisions on important issues are required a two-thirds majority. Other questions are decided by simple majority.



The meeting room for ECOSOC.

Source: Kjetil Ree³

¹ The General Assembly of the United Nations. (2010). *About General Assembly*. Retrieved January 31, 2011. from <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/index.shtml>.

² The General Assembly of the United Nations. (July 3, 2006). *Member States of the United Nations*. Retrieved January 31, 2011. from <http://www.un.org/en/members/index.shtml>

The General Assembly of the United Nations (2010). *Main Committees*. Retrieved January 31, 2011. from <http://www.un.org/en/ga/maincommittees/index.shtml>

³ Photo Credit: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:United_Nations_Economic_and_Social_Council.jpg